

Charlie Bumpers vs. the Squeaking Skull

We've put together a list of vocabulary words – some for definition, some for spelling, some because they raise interesting questions – to go along with reading the book. Feel free to use all or some of our suggestions. (page numbers reflect the hardcover version)

Vocabulary:

P1 skipping

P2 crowded

P2 scary

P2 contest

P3 neighborhood

P4 stupendous

P4 terrific

P4 stupific (wait a minute! Is that even a real word? No, actually it's not, but what do you think it means?)

P4 hyper

P5 retrieve

P5 horror

P6 shrieking

P8 awful

P9 complained

P9 allowed

P9 relieved

P12 suspicious

P13 protested

P13 tease

P15 muttered

P15 distribution

P15 ghoul

P16 finished

P17 squealed

P19 information

P19 whined

P21 attention

P21 noticing

P22 weird

P22 disaster

P22 collage

P22 sasquatch

P23 chupacabra

P23 pronounced

P26 kangaroo

P26 plastic

P26 carton

P27 cramming

P27 human garbage disposal

P28 creature

P28 announcer

P29 include

P29 nervous

P30 ninja

P33 concerned

P35 insisted

P35 psyched

P37 terrifying

P37 chattering

P37 wailing

P37 gargling

P41 devoured

P41 expecting

P42 umbrella

P43 smacked

P43 servant

P44 drenched

P46 punched

P47 outrageous

P47 spectacular

P47 spectageous (wait a minute! Is that even a real word? No, actually it's not, but what do you think it means?)

P50 rhinoceros

P51 snuggled

P51 drifting

P52 bloodcurdling

P54 important

P54 normal

P54 wagging

P55 index finger

P55 ahold

P55 my heart pounding out of my chest

P56 goofballs

P59 pester
P60 raspy
P61 process
P61 organization
P62 disturbing
P62 expected
P63 mission accomplished

P64 bumper
P65 fabulous
P65 tremendous
P65 tremabulous (wait a minute! Is that even a real word? No, actually it's not, but what do you think it means?)
P66 bizzaro
P66 funky
P68 strictly
P70 banished
P70 rabid
P72 design
P74 teeny

P81 epoxy
P81 grommet
P83 lopsided

P85 klutz
P86 rickety
P86 mannequin
P89 ultimate

P94 shifted
P94 uncomfortable

P100 duffle

P107 impress

P120 revive
P122 hyperactive

Random Questions:

It's almost Halloween and Charlie is having trouble coming up with the perfect costume idea. Have you ever had trouble deciding on what to dress up as for Halloween? Have you ever had a great idea but been unable to find or make the

costume? What has been your best costume? What was your worst? What do you hope to be for this Halloween?

Do you like scary movies? Why or why not. Do you think Charlie was dorky to not like scary movies? If you had been invited to a party where you were going to watch scary movies (or whatever movies you don't like) would you go? Would you tell your friends that you didn't like that kind of movie? What should Charlie have said to his friends to explain his dislike of scary movies?

While in art class Charlie's friend Hector makes a chupacabra mask. Did you know what a chupacabra was before Hector explained it? Can you do some research on the chupacabra? What did you find out? Do you think they are real?

When Charlie finds out that Hector has never been trick or treating, he asks Alex to invite Hector to his party. Why do you think Charlie did that? If you had a friend who had never been trick or treating (or hunting Easter eggs or ridden a roller coaster or been to a rodeo or something else that you always do) would you invite them? How would you explain this event (whatever it is) to your friend so they would understand how much fun it is?

Matt comes up with an idea to de-scare Charlie. Do you think it was a good idea? Do you think it really made Charlie less scared? What sort of things do you think would help someone be less scared?